

(b) All jute and jute products were exempted from excise duty in the budget for 1997-98 to revive and give a thrust to the ailing jute industry.

(c) and (d) In view of the impending budget, it is not possible to indicate any response.

Financial irregularities by M/s. Reliance Petroleum Ltd.

606. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s Reliance Petroleum Ltd. have been indulging in financial irregularities in the Public Issue funds of their refinery project and complaints have been made to Government in this regards;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action, if any, has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Loan to Farmers

607. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to provide loan to the farmers on the pattern of the industries for purchasing land; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Finance Minister during his meeting with the Chief Executives of Public Sector Banks on 14 November, 2000 emphasized the need to step up priority sector

^tOriginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.